

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DPW-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01

OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 /190 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4924

INFO USUN NEW YORK 240

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM

SUBJECT: LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE - JUNE WEAPONS MEETING

1. NEXT STEP IN WORK ON LAWS OF WAR IS MEETING OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO BE CONVENED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND, FROM JUNE 4 TO 28, 1974. SUBJECT IS QUESTION OF PROHIBITING OR RESTRICTING USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. USDEL REQUESTS THIS BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF IO/OIC.

2. ICRC WILL DECIDE WHO WILL BE INVITED TO THIS EXPERTS CONFERENCE. OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT THEY WILL INVITE GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, WHICH HAS JUST COMPLETED ITS FIRST SESSION. HOWEVER, US REP ALDRICH HAD LONG DISCUSSION YESTERDAY WITH ICRC PRESIDENT GALLOPIN IN WHICH IT BECAME CLEAR THAT GALLOPIN, AT LEAST, WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING INVITATION TO PRG. ALDRICH MADE IT CLEAR THAT USG WOULD FIND SUCH ACTION
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INCOMPREHENSIBLE. HE SAID THAT THE DIPLOMATIC

CONFERENCE HAD MADE ITS DECISION NOT TO INVITE THE PRG; FOR THE ICRC NOW GRATUITOUSLY TO IGNORE THAT DECISION AND EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE WEAPONS MEETING WOULD SEEM RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE. BY THE END OF THE DISCUSSION, GALLOPIN APPEARED TO AGREE THAT INVITATION WOULD DO ICRC MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

3. PRIOR TO FINAL PLENARY SESSION OF CONFERENCE, ALDRICH MADE SAME POINTS TO THREE OTHER ICRC MEMBERS (MARTIN, PICTET, AND BINDSHEDLER) AND ADDED THAT SUCH A GESTURE WOULD PROBABLY NOT EVEN RESULT IN PRG ATTENDANCE SINCE IT WOULD BE A KIND OF SECOND-CLASS OFFER AS THEY WOULD STILL NOT BE INVITED TO THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE. NONE OF THE THREE SAID ANYTHING IN FAVOR OF THE INVITATION IDEA, BUT THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT QUESTION WOULD BE DECIDED BY ICRC NEXT WEEK.

4. AT ALDRICH PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON LOCAL NEWSMEN ASKED WHETHER INVITATION TO PRG BY ICRC WOULD NOT ENDANGER CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF PENDING INCREASE IN US ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO ICRC. ALDRICH SAID HE CERTAINLY DID NOT, RPT NOT, EXPECT ANY SUCH INVITATION AND THEREFORE CONSIDERED QUESTION HYPOTHETICAL, BUT ADDED THAT, OF COURSE, IF SUCH AN INVITATION WERE GIVEN IT WOULD BE VERY BADLY RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON.

5. COMMENT. WE DOUBT THAT ICRC WILL TAKE ANY SUCH DISASTROUS DECISION AS TO INVITE PRG, BUT US MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS CLEAR TO ICRC DURING NEXT WEEK. ALDRICH ANSWER TO PRESS WAS DESIGNED TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF THREAT TO ICRC, BUT ICRC CAN HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT STRENGTH OF USG VIEWS.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, WAR, ARMS, MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA02034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740070-0285
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974034/aaaaadwd.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE - JUNE WEAPONS MEETING
TAGS: PARM, US, ICRC, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005